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## THE NEW BUREAU OF ECONOMICS IN THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

The Bureau of Markets and the Bureau of Crop Estimates of the U. S. Department of Agriculture were amalgamated on July 1, 1921. Dr. H. C. Taylor, formerly Chief of the Office of Farm Management and Farm Economics, was appointed Chief of the new bureau. Mr. L. M. Estabrook, formerly Chief of the Bureau of Crop Estimates, was made Associate Chief under the new organization. This is the first step in the direction of a closer and more intimate coordination of the economic work of the Department. A further step will be proposed by Secretary Wallace in the appropriation bill for 1922-23, in which the work of the Office of Farm Management and Farm Economics will be merged with the Bureau of Markets and Crop Estimates. The new bureau will probably be known as the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

It is expected that the regulatory work now in the bureau will be placed under a Federal agricultural marketing board, which will be charged with the administration of various laws relating to marketing, such as the Grain Standards Act, the Cotton Futures Act, the Standard Container Act, and the Warehouse Act. According to preliminary plans the research and extension activities of the new bureau will be grouped and developed in twelve important divisions. The tentative organization will be about as follows:

Division No. 1 will be concerned with the general business administration of the Bureau.

No. 2. Farm Management or the organization of production will deal with studies such as (*a*) types of farming, (*b*) size of the farm business, (*c*) farm buildings or layouts, (*d*) the effective use of labor and equipment, (*e*) the intensity of production, (*f*) cost factors and their relation to farm organization, (*g*) price trends and their relation to farm organization, and (*h*) comparative studies of farm management methods and practices.

No. 3. Cost of production and distribution will combine the important cost studies now being carried on by the Office of Farm Management and Farm Economics and the marketing cost investigations recently begun by the Bureau of Markets. Particular attention will be given to (*a*) the elements of cost for each step of production and distribution, (*b*) the relation of cost to charges for services, (*c*)

the relation of costs and prices, (*d*) the relation of cost studies to better business methods in production and distribution and (*e*) the relation of supply to demand.

No. 4. Marketing of farm products or the organization of distribution will make (*a*) a descriptive study of the methods and practices of marketing each farm crop, (*b*) market condition, (*c*) demand for specific crops, (*d*) sources of supply, (*e*) the preparation, grading, handling, transportation, and storage of these products, (*f*) cooperative marketing, and (*g*) fundamental problems of standardization and grading.

No. 5. Market Inspection of Perishable Foods will make destination inspections of fruits and vegetables at designated markets on the request of any financially-interested party (shipper, carrier or dealer) and will issue certificates as to quality and condition, that are accepted as *prima facie* evidence in any Federal Court. This work is conducted under authority contained in the Food Products Inspection Law.

No. 6. Agricultural competition and demand in foreign countries will investigate (*a*) agricultural conditions in countries that compete with the United States, (*b*) the agricultural potentialities of competing countries, (*c*) farm management and marketing practices in competing countries, (*d*) demand and opportunities in foreign markets, and (*e*) demonstrations to encourage consumption.

No. 7. Agricultural prices and statistics will make provision for the collection of (*a*) complete information regarding the production and distribution of farm products, (*b*) crop and live-stock production in the United States and foreign countries, (*c*) stocks on hand, (*d*) demand and consumption, (*e*) prices of farm and manufactured products.

No. 8. Agricultural readjustments or agricultural history and geography will endeavor to interpret and explain (*a*) the trend of agricultural prices and the trend of agricultural production, (*b*) the development or decline of markets, (*c*) shifts in agricultural production, (*d*) geographic factors determining the types of farming, (*e*) the geography of the world's production, (*f*) and will complete preparation and publication of Atlas of American Agriculture.

No. 9. Agricultural finance will involve investigations of (*a*) the methods of financing production and marketing of farm products, (*b*) insurance of buildings, live stock and stocks in storage, (*c*) taxation and its relation to production and distribution, and (*d*) the financing of rural public utilities and other group enterprises.

No. 10. Land economics will embrace such studies as (*a*) land resources and utilization, (*b*) land values, (*c*) ownership and tenancy, (*d*) the farm labor supply and movement, (*e*) land settlement, and colonization, (*f*) methods of renting and other problems relating to land and labor in agriculture.

No. 11. Country life and rural organization will consider (*a*) the characteristics and movements of rural population, (*b*) rural home life and its relation to agriculture and population movements, (*c*) opportunities for social contacts typical in rural communities, (*d*) rural organization, (*e*) the relation of educational and religious institutions to farm life problems, and (*f*) the various effects of farm labor, tenancy and landlordism.

No. 12. Market information will make every practicable effort to extend the market news services of the Bureau; to develop other outlets for market and other available information such as the Marketgram and Radio News Service developed during the past year; to coöperate with the States in extending and utilizing such services; to develop further exhibits and demonstrations and extend their use; and to conduct the press and publication work of the Bureau.

### **ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN FARM ECONOMIC ASSOCIATION.**

The 1921 meeting of the American Farm Economic Association will be held at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, during the Christmas holidays. The exact date of the meeting has not been arranged as yet. These dates will be announced in the October issue of the JOURNAL. A tentative program will also be published in the October number. The American Economic Association and other associations will convene in Pittsburgh at the same time, thus members of the American Farm Economic Association will have an opportunity to hear some of the addresses that are presented at these other meetings.